



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 5401
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 15, 2022

Chairs Fonfara and Scanlon, Ranking Members Cheeseman and Martin, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. We thank the committee for raising House Bill No. 5401 *An Act Exempting COVID-19 At-Home Test Kits From The Sales And Use Tax*.

When the pandemic first emerged in 2020, we all saw the massive number of vehicles waiting for hours in lines to get a covid test at testing sites throughout the state. As the pandemic evolved, so did testing. Residents can now get an at-home test kit either for free or by purchasing one. Unfortunately, under our statutes these at-home tests are subject to the 6.35% sales and use tax. Considering that testing is often mandated by both government and employers, we believe it's wrong for government to profit from these mandates. House Bill 5401 addresses this problem by exempting at-home test kits from the sales and use tax beginning July 1, 2022.

Connecticut already exempts various medical supplies and medications from the sales tax and at-home test kits ought to be exempted as well. As these tests became available, the government purchased them tax free and distributed a limited number of them to residents for free. However, there was a limited quantity of these test and residents then had no choice but to start purchasing them on their own, with sales tax added. Exempting these tests from the sales tax makes sense and is good public policy for the state. It sends a signal to residents that the government will not be making money from these purchases.

We thank the committee for raising this bill, urge its support, and ask that it be allowed to be brought to the floor for a vote.